PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

e application of ,

Docket No: Q78051

Takaki SHIMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/689,761

Group Art Unit: 3737

Confirmation No.: 6020

Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: October 22, 2003

For:

PUNCTURE DIFFICULTY EVALUATING DEVICE

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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washington office 23373 customer number

Date: March 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Yarryl Mexic

Registration No. 23,063

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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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WASHINGTON OFFICE 23373
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Examiner: [case examiner]

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents, other than any U.S. patents and patent publications, is submitted herewith, along with a copy of the corresponding Communication from a Foreign Patent Office.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/689,761

Attorney Docket No.: Q78051

under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a

statement can be made, a statement is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the

communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is

attached.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such

document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any

listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 10, 2004

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Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO				Complete if Known			
				Application Number	10/689,761		
INFORM	MATION DISC	LOS	SURE	Confirmation Number	6020		
TATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Filing Date	October 22, 2003		
3				First Named Inventor	Takaki SHIMURA		
0 2004 5 (use a	s many sheets as nec	cessa	rv)	Art Unit	3737		
MAR 1 E				Examiner Name	NOT YET ASSIGNED		
She	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q78051		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Cite Initials* No.1	C'4-	Document		Publication Date		
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
		US 3,936,791	Α	2/3/1976	KOSSOFF	
		US 4,442,844	A	4/17/1984	NAVACH	
		US 5,235,987	Α	8/17/1993	WOLFE	
		US				
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Cite Initials* No.1	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	T	
	Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY	Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶	
		EP	0 383 288	A1	8/22/1990	FUJITSU LIMITED	
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Cite Initials* No.1		Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.			
		PHILIPS MEDICAL SYSTEMS: "USER'S GUIDE. PHILIPS SONOS 5500/4500", June 2002, PHILIPS ELECTRONICS U.S.A. XP002268606			
		BRIDAL ET AL.: "RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ULTRASONIC ATTENUATION, APPARENT INTEGRATED BACKSCATTER (30 TO 50 MHZ) AND THE COMPOSITION OF ATHEROSCLEROTIC PLAQUE" ACOUSTICAL IMAGING, vol. 23, 13-16 April 1997, pages 181-186, XP001172969			

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.